

B. Amendment to the Claims

Please cancel claims 1-8 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend claim 10 as follows.

1-8. (Cancelled)

9. (Original) A method of manufacturing an optical element having in a surface thereof a fine pattern with a concave lens effect, comprising the steps of:

providing a molding material onto a mold having in a surface thereof a configuration corresponding to the fine pattern;

putting a substrate on the molding material;

giving a local temperature difference to an interface between the mold and the molding material at a peripheral portion of an optical element to be manufactured, to separate the mold and the molding material from each other in an area;

enlarging the area of separation made by the temperature difference successively from the peripheral portion to a center portion of the optical element such that the substrate warps convexly relative to the mold and only the center portion remains unseparated with the peripheral portion being separated;

bringing an ejector pin projecting from the mold side into contact with a peripheral portion of the substrate; and

heating an interface between the mold and the molding material at the center portion of the optical element to entirely separate the mold and the molding material from each other.

10. (Withdrawn/Currently Amended) An optical element manufactured by the method as set forth in claim ~~any one of claims 1 to 9~~.

11. (Withdrawn) The optical element according to claim 10, comprising a plurality of optical members each having a diffraction grating, as superposed.

12. (Withdrawn) An optical system comprising a plurality of optical elements including the optical element as set forth in claim 10.

13. (Withdrawn) An optical device for forming an image using the optical system as set forth in claim 12.

14. (Withdrawn) The optical device according to claim 13, which is an imaging device.

15. (Withdrawn) The optical device according to claim 13, which is an observing device.